



American Civil Liberties  
Union

of Montana

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EXHIBIT 2/19/09  
DATE  
HB 552

February 19, 2009

Re: HB 552

My name is Scott Crichton, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana.

Today I stand in opposition to HB 552,

Earlier in my career, when our offices were located in Billings, I had the distinct privilege of serving more than 5 years on the board of directors of Montana's first pre-release center, the Alpha House, and their parent organization, known as Alternatives.

During that period I participated in the thoughtful and difficult deliberations of that agency concerning opening consideration of placing some sex offenders in community based correctional facilities, I have some understanding of the issues and concerns being brought forward by the bill's sponsor.

However, this bill unnecessarily politicizes best practices of correctional professionals.

This bill needlessly exacerbates the public misunderstanding of the nature of sex offenders and the prospects for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

I urge you to give HB 552 a do not pass recommendation.